



**COUNTY OF PLACER
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION**

CHRISTINE E. TURNER
Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights & Measures

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEMBERS

Tony Aguilar	Larry Jordan
Patricia Beard	William Morebeck
James Brenner	John Nitta
Paul Ferrari	Stewart Perry
Wayne Vineyard	

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MINUTES *Revised*

PLACER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING

April 14, 2008

Members Present: Tony Aguilar, Patti Beard, Jim Brenner, William Morebeck, Larry Jordan, Stewart Perry, John Nitta, Wayne Vineyard

Members Absent: Paul Ferrari

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Meeting called to order at 7:00 by Chairman Wayne Vineyard.
 - II. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR APRIL 14, 2008 AND MINUTES FOR MARCH 10, 2008**
Motion to approve:
Aguilar/Jordan/MPUV
 - III. **PUBLIC COMMENT (The Commission does not act on items under Public Comment).**
None
 - IV. **PROPOSED SECONDARY DWELLING UNIT ON WILLIAMSON ACT PROPERTY – Larry Koshman (PARP 20080104)** –Alex Fisch, Planning Department
This was a request to construct a new primary residence on subject Williamson Act property. The existing residence would become a secondary dwelling unit as allowed under Placer County's Administrative Rules for Williamson Act contracts.

Motion to approve:
Nitta/Morebeck/MPUV
 - V. **BUNCH CREEK REZONE** –Crystal Jacobsen, Planning Department
The applicant was requesting approval for an immediate rezone of the subject property from TPZ (Timberland Production Zone) to RF-B-X-80-Acre Minimum (Residential Forest, combining an 80-acre minimum lot size).

Application denied: *Based on the Agricultural Commission's conclusion that the property still has potential for the production of timber and other forest products and the importance of maintaining designated timberland areas as TPZ land the applicant's request was denied.
Jordan/Nitta/MPUV

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Agricultural Marketing Program Activities – Nancyjo Riekse

Reported on Ag Marketing activities for the month of March:

- Set up an agricultural display in the lobby of the County Financial Administration Building at DeWitt Center.
- Set up two different displays in the lobby of the Domes – one for National Agriculture Week and one for National Weights & Measures Week.
- Worked with county agricultural organizations to apply for grants through the CA Welcome Center.
- Met with a group of producers to discuss potential opportunities for growing produce specifically for local restaurants.
- Working hard on getting the 2008 Placer County Agricultural Guide edited and published.

B. Economic Development Board (EDB) Update – Lyndell Grey

- The Board of Supervisor's approved the Redevelopment Plan. Robert Weygandt will be incumbent President for 2009.
- Two Placer County Supervisors now have seats on the EDB.
- Executive Committee currently has an Agriculture seat on the EDB, and they are working on a Mission Statement.
- The South Placer Heritage Foundation won the EDB award for their restoration work on the Blue Goose Fruit Shed.

C. Livestock and Natural Resources Farm Advisor – Roger Ingram – No report

D. Horticultural and Small Farms Advisor – Cindy Fake

- Farm Business Planning class was very successful and positive.
- Received two Sustainable Ag grants to support the Ag Futures project. Expect funding in early fall. Still working on other funding sources.
- Parasitic wasp's are being released in mandarin orchards for Red Scale pest management.
- First meeting for potential Farm & Barn hosts will be April 24 at UCCE. Possible 10 sites this year and hoping to have a Colfax site.
- Ag Futures meeting April 30 to talk about marketing issues in the county.
- USDA has been conducting a synephrine study on Placer County mandarins. Synephrine is a natural antihistamine.

E. Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) Agendas/Minutes – Patti Beard - No report

F. Placer Parkway Meeting Update – William Morebeck - No report

G. Agricultural Water Supply Subcommittee/Ag Water Waivers – Christine E. Turner

- Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program staff is considering including agricultural activities that are not currently included under the waiver program. It could include potential discharge of storm water waste from non-irrigated pasture and dry land farming, from non-irrigated pasture. In addition, staff was directed by the State Water Resources Control Board to include regulation of waste discharge from irrigated lands to ground water.

VII. AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S REPORT – Christine E. Turner, Agricultural Commissioner

- Placer County was included as a contiguous county in two secretarial disaster designations – one from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and one from the U.S. Small Business Administration for agricultural losses caused by winter storms with high winds that occurred on January 4, 2008.
- In addition, Placer County (as a contiguous county) was also included the U.S. Small Business Administration disaster designation due to agricultural losses caused by drought and wildfires in the State of Nevada in 2007.
- Placer County Air Pollution Control District held a public workshop on March 25, 2008, highlighting funding programs to assist with the replacement of older agricultural diesel engines.
- Placer County's Planning Director granted a Zoning Ordinance exemption for a 4-H hog project in Granite Bay.
- CA Farm Bureau Federation alerted agriculturalists that the "Treatment of Farm Animals" initiative has qualified for the November statewide ballot. A group called Californians for Sound Farm Animal Agriculture has been formed to urge defeat of the initiative.
- Ethics training will be rescheduled.
- Provided a copy of the CA Department of Food and Agriculture's 2007 CA Agricultural Resource Directory.
- National Pork Board would like to make a presentation to Agricultural Commission at a future meeting.
- Wine Ordinance going to the Planning Commission again on May 8, 2008 and they were favorable to the Agricultural Commission's recommendations at their earlier hearing.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS AND GENERAL COMMISSION COMMENTS

XI. ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to come before the Agricultural Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20. The next regular meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 12, 2008 at the Planning Commission Hearing Room in Auburn.

Recording Secretary
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